

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Any discussion on the bill? Senator Lowell Johnson, please.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of LB 77. The committee amendment which was incorporated into this bill was originally introduced by me as LB 228 and I appreciate the committee taking the...making the efforts to combine the bills and expedite the process. Further, Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent to add my name as a co-sponsor of LB 77.

SPEAKER BARRETT: If there are no objections, so ordered. Any other discussion? Seeing none, all in favor of advancing LB 77, as amended, to E & R, please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 77 is advanced. LB 60.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 60 introduced by Senator Haberman. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 8, referred to the Retirement Systems Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I do have Retirement Committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to, first of all, explain the bill, then I will explain what the amendment does to the bill. But the first thing, I would like to tell everybody on the floor that there is no increase in any annual contributions from anybody. This is a hold...this is a hold-harmless cost proposition. So there is no cost to anybody on the bill. Now, LB 60 achieves three objectives. First, it conforms the county plan, the county plan to the early retirement age of the Nebraska state employees. NACO, or the association of county employees, testified in favor of the bill. Second, the monthly income benefits of early retirement are actually equivalent to the accumulated retirement account. And, finally, it continues to limit the lump sum settlement option for participants that have attained retirement age. Now, the amendment, the amendment to the committee, says, in essence, that any member of a retirement system who, on the effective date of this act, has attained 55 years of age and who